

green Jobs green Business

Updates and Anecdotes:

EVI's work on the Microenterprise Council of Maryland's SBA Prime Grant for '09-'10 concluded by co-hosting the Wor-Wic Community College Sustainable Living Event on October 23rd 2010. Wor-Wic Community College, the Small Business Development Center, Maryland Capital Enterprise, and Telamon Corporation were the other co-hosts. The event profiled several of EVI's green business entrepreneurs as speakers and/or vendors. These included Vance Morris of Chesapeake Service Solutions and Chem Dry, Elaine Patterson and Kent Simon of Patriot Environmental (energy efficiency technologies), and Janet Sydnor of a Cove's End, a local sustainable farm and sustainable oyster and crab business.

The event brought together over 40 participants, including the Mayor of Salisbury, to learn about sustainable living and about the businesses in their backyard that provide sustainable products and services for everyday living.

Impacts from the event include:

1. Janet Sydnor and her husband from a Cove's End connected with the Lower Eastern Shore Organics Network (LESSONS), an organization providing support and training to sustainable farmers and invited to speak by EVI. This connection lays the groundwork for Janet and her husband to access new markets through LESSONS such as Salisbury University.
2. Janet sold out of all the crabs that she brought to the event, which was several dozen. This provided them an opportunity to link the new individual customers and promote their product.
3. Janet linked with a local eco-tour organization, Adrenaline High Eco Tours, to be a selected site on one of their bike tours, again enabling further income generation and promotion.
4. Elaine Patterson and Kent Simon were able to set-up site visits with several participants to do energy assessments and look at provision of their energy efficient products, including an elder care center.
5. LESSONS connected with an elder care center called Village at Harbor Point, and received a donation of seven acres of land for new and beginner farmers that are members of LESSONS. Access to land is a huge barrier to entry for new farmers, so this connection is exciting. In addition, the Village a Harbor Point has several retired farmers as residents and therefore having farming on the property is a further win-win.
6. In addition, Elaine Patterson and Kent Simon from Patriot Environmental were connected by EVI to potential customers, including Warwick Fulfillment and PGH Health Care.

